Early Care and Education Research Resources:
Access to Early Care and Education

The Child Care and Early Education Research Connections collection catalogs resources that researchers, policymakers, and other professionals find and use for child care and early education research. The items outlined in this resource list examine families’ access to early care and education (ECE) published between 2016 and 2022 in the United States and are categorized by research topic.

This resource list contains a sampling of the research housed in the Research Connections collection. We have provided a topical curated list of additional resources in the Research Connections library for further reading. You may find additional resources in the Research Connections library by searching for keywords such as "access" or "affordability."

Resource List Topics

Topics in this research resource include the following:

- Affordability
- Building infrastructure
- Children with special needs
- Definitions of access
- Geographic distribution
- Head Start–Early Head Start
- High quality programming
- Impacts of COVID-19
- Special populations
- Universal prekindergarten

Affordability


Explore more resources on child care affordability in this curated list from Research Connections.

Building Infrastructure


Explore more resources on building infrastructure in early care and education in this curated list from Research Connections.

Children with Special Needs


Explore more resources on access for children with special needs in this curated list from Research Connections.

Definitions of Access


Explore more resources on defining access in this curated list from Research Connections.

Geographic Distribution


Explore more resources on geographic distribution, in this curated list from Research Connections.

Head Start–Early Head Start


Explore more resources on Head Start and Early Head Start in this curated list from Research Connections.

High Quality Programming


Explore more resources on high quality programs in this curated list from Research Connections.

Impacts of COVID-19

Accessing Child Care During the Coronavirus Pandemic in Massachusetts. (2021). Wendy Wagner Robeson


The Child Care Crisis: Why the Status Quo is Failing Families, Early Educators, and Our Economy. (n.d.). First Five Years Fund

Explore more resources on impacts of COVID-19 in this curated list from Research Connections.

Special Populations

Equitable Access to High-Quality Early Care and Education: Opportunities to Better Serve Young Hispanic Children and Their Families. (2021) Julia Mendez Smith, Danielle A. Crosby & Christina Stephens


Facilitating Access to Early Care and Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness (OPRE Research Brief #2020-12). (2020) Sara H. Shaw, Ashley Hirilall & Tamara Halle


Supporting Immigrant Providers and Families Through Child Care Relief Funds. (2021). Tiffany Ferrette

Explore more resources on special populations in this curated list from Research Connections.

Universal Prekindergarten


Setting the Stage for Universal Preschool: Is Transitional Kindergarten Serving Students Equitably?
(2022). Laura E. Hill & Emmanuel Prunty


Explore more resources on universal Pre-K in this curated list from Research Connections.

This project is supported by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a 5-year financial assistance award (Grant No. 90YE250) totaling $3,953,308, with 100 percent funded by ACF/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, ACF/HHS or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit the ACF website at Administrative and National Policy Requirements.